

ST. MARK FAITH FORMATION

January 2020

MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year!! I pray you each are having a blessed Christmas season! (Remember that for Catholics, Christmas does not end until Epiphany.) While the break was nice, I am ready for us to begin gathering again next week.

Since many of us may be struggling to get our brains out of “holiday/vacation” mode, let’s start with a couple of reminders...

- 1) Mass Time Changes begin this weekend. The new schedule is:
Saturday 4:00pm – St. Patrick, Hampton
Saturday 6:30pm – St. Mark, Iowa Falls
Sunday 8 :00am – St. Mary, Ackley
Sunday 10:30am – St. Mary, Hampton
- 2) After Mass this weekend we will be having a Drink & Snack Social after Mass. This is a fun way to kick off the new year as well as welcome Archbishop Jackels. You are welcome to bring a snack/appetizer to share, but you do not have to bring anything.
- 3) Classes resume for students in Kindergarten – Grade 8 this Wednesday (January 8).

Family (and Adult) Faith Formation...

We will continue to offer some fun opportunities throughout the year for all of our families to enjoy together. We hope you will be able to join us occasionally for these events.

- **Archdiocesan Women’s Conference** – Consider giving yourself, and maybe a friend, a gift. Join other women from throughout the diocese at our annual *Beauty in Christ Conference*. It will be held on Saturday, July 25 in Cedar Rapids, there is also a special additional event on Friday night that you can attend. Contact Brenda Strayer with any questions or go to archwomensconference.org for details or registration. *Early bird ticket prices end on Monday, January 6 so act fast!*
- **Dinner Is Served** – Please plan to join us for our monthly freewill donation meal provided by the Warrington Family. This month the menu will consist of *hot ham and cheese sandwiches, a side, dessert, and drink*. details.
- **Communal Reconciliation** – You are encouraged to join our students for this sacramental offering on Wednesday, January 22. We will begin in the church at 6:30pm and there will be a variety of priests to choose from.
- **LENT** – Planning has begun for the upcoming Lenten season. Watch future emails for more details

Sacramental Prep

- **Eucharist** (2nd grade students)
Keep following the provided schedule for lessons. Our next parent session will be held on Wednesday, January 15. Please arrive with your student by 6:15pm. We will gather in the church.

Grades Kindergarten thru 5

- **MaginifKid...** Continue to encourage your children in grades Pre-K through Grade 3 to grab these to help them follow along at Mass. (They are always in the front pews for the altar servers to use, please encourage.) The materials may be helpful during prayer time and other times of conversation during the week as well.
- **Class Schedule...**
Wednesday, January 8 (6:15-7:30pm)
Wednesday, January 15 (6:15-7:30pm)

Dinner is Served in Parish Hall (5:00-6:00pm)

Wednesday, January 22 (6:15-7:30pm)

Wednesday, January 29 (6:15-7:30pm)

- **Youth Led Ministries...** The next Mass will be held on **Saturday, January 18 (6:30pm)**.

Liturgical Assignments:

Servers: Ella Bridgewater, Dylan Miller

Greeters & Bulletins: Elsie Fett, Emmary Fett, Marisol Lara, Valerie Williams

Gifts: Bennett Bridgewater, Kamden Hansen, Kael Williams

Usher/Baskets: Addison Fett

- **Altar Server Training...**

A training will be held soon for all current and any new students interested in being an altar server. Student must be in 2nd grade or older. A separate email will be sent out with details.

Grades 6 through 8

- **Class Schedule...**

Wednesday, January 8 (6:15-7:30pm)

Wednesday, January 15 (6:15-7:30pm)

Dinner is Served in Parish Hall (5:00-6:00pm)

Wednesday, January 22 (6:15-7:30pm)

Wednesday, January 29 (6:15-7:30pm)

- **Youth Led Ministries...** The next Mass will be held on **Saturday, January 18 (6:30pm)**.

Liturgical Assignments:

Lectors: Mitch Brennan, Hunter Miller

Usher/Baskets: Evan Smith, Zachary Hicketier, Zander Last

- **Altar Server Training...**

A training will be held soon for all current and any new students interested in being an altar server. Student must be in 2nd grade or older. A separate email will be sent out with details. If your child is currently scheduled but no longer wishes to serve, please let me know.

- **Youth Ministry...**

- **Gathering** - All students in grades 6-8 are invited to join us for a fun afternoon of activities. We will gather in the youth center on Sunday, January 12 (4:00-6:00pm). Please use back upstairs entrance.

Grades 9 thru 12

- **Youth Led Ministries...** The next Mass will be held on **Saturday, January 18 (6:30pm)**.

- **Altar Server Training...**

A training will be held soon for all current and any new students interested in being an altar server. Student must be in 2nd grade or older. A separate email will be sent out with details. If your child is currently scheduled but no longer wishes to serve, please let me know.

- **Youth Ministry/RE Gatherings...**

- **January 5** - All students in grades 9-12 are invited to join us for an afternoon of activities. We will gather in the youth center on Sunday, January 5 (4:00-6:00pm).
- **January 19** - Fr. Kevin will join us for the days activities. We will gather in the youth center on Sunday, January 5 (4:00-6:00pm).
- Please, always use back upstairs entrance unless otherwise noted.

Wishing you many blessings as you begin this new calendar year!

Brenda Strayer

St. Mark Director of Faith Formation

Faith Formation Calendar of Events at St. Mark

January

- **Sunday, January 5**
High School RE/YM (4:00-6:00pm)
- **Wednesday, January 8**
RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)
- **Sunday, January 12**
Middle School YM (4:00-6:00pm)
- **Wednesday, January 15**
Dinner is Served (5:15-6:00pm)
RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)
2nd Grade Parent/Student Session (6:15pm)
- **Saturday, January 18**
Youth Led Ministries @ Mass (6:30pm)
- **Sunday, January 19**
High School RE/YM (4:00-6:00pm)
- **Wednesday, January 22**
RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)
Communal Reconciliation (6:30pm)
- **January 25**
Archdiocesan Women's Conference @ Cedar Rapids
- **Wednesday, January 29**
RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)

February

- **Sunday, February 2**
High School RE/YM (4:00-6:00pm)
- **Wednesday, February 5**
RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)
RE Family Mass (6:30pm)
- **Sunday, February 9**
Annual Turkey Dinner (3:30-6:30pm)
- **Wednesday, February 12**
RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)
2nd Grade Parent/Student Session (6:15pm)